

# AAUW of Virginia Reston Herndon Branch

May, June 2025



## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND LUNCH**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21 AT NOON**

**WALKER NATURE CENTER, RESTON**

**SEE DETAILS UNDER PROGRAMS**

### **President's Message**

Janine Greenwood

Dear Members:

I believe the following excerpt from the New York Times editorial says it all:

The past 100 days have wounded this country, and there is no guarantee that we will fully recover. But nobody should give up. American democracy retreated before, during the post-Reconstruction era, Jim Crow, the Red Scare, Watergate and other times. It recovered from those periods not because its survival was inevitable but because Americans — including many who disagreed with one another on other subjects — fought bravely and smartly for this country's ideals. That is our duty today.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/01/opinion/trump-100-days-opposition.html>

Together we are strong and AAUW is fighting back. Because AAUW's roots in higher education go back more than 140 years, our organization is focusing on the part of this struggle we know best. I urge you to join Gloria Blackwell, AAUW and me by taking the pledge below:

One hundred days into the Trump administration, the message is clear: this administration is waging an aggressive campaign to dismantle higher education.

The cost of these attacks is real. For a Black mother pursuing an advanced degree while working or a Latina student navigating financial insecurity, these changes can mean the difference between graduating and dropping out.

Now is the time for collective action. [I'm calling on you to take a pledge with me to stand up and speak out for gender equity this year.](#)

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## Public Policy

Shyamali Hauth, Chair

### Right to Contraception

Governor Youngkin has vetoed two critical birth control bills that passed out of the General Assembly with bipartisan support.

The Contraceptive Equity Act and the Right to Contraception Act would have strengthened protections for Virginians' access to contraception. These bills were about more than just birth control. Access to contraception is about protecting your health, your future, and your bodily autonomy.

Governor Youngkin's veto is a shameful rejection of what Virginians overwhelmingly support. It makes clear that he is willing to put politics ahead of personal freedom and basic health care. Virginians deserve leadership that trusts them to make their own decisions about their bodies and their lives.

[Take action now by sending a message to Governor Youngkin and telling him Virginians deserve better.](#)

### Bill in Congress on Student Loans

AAUW is joining other organizations in pushing back against a bill in Congress that would do the following:

1. Punishes Student-Parents—Especially Black & Latina Mothers Raising the Pell “full-time” bar to 15 credits per term cuts grants for the very learners who rely on them most; 74% of student-parents are women and 55% are people of color.
2. Ends Subsidized Loans, Making College More Expensive for Women Eliminating subsidized Stafford loans means interest accrues while women are still in school, adding thousands to a balance they already struggle to repay because of the gender pay gap.

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3. Slashes Federal Borrowing Power and Kills Grad PLUS New loan caps (\$50 k undergraduate, \$100K/ \$150K graduate & professional, \$200K lifetime) and the loss of Grad PLUS leave advanced degrees—especially in STEM, medicine, and law—financially out of reach for many women.

4. Cuts Off Parent PLUS—A Lifeline for Families of Color Restricting new Parent PLUS loans removes the only federal option many Black and low-wealth families have to close college-cost gaps, jeopardizing completion for women of color.

5. Locks Women into 30 Years of Debt The new “Repayment Assistance Plan” extends forgiveness to 360 monthly payments (30 years), deepening the debt drag on women who already take longer than men to repay and delaying wealth-building milestones.

**Be sure you are receiving Two-Minute Activist alerts form AAUW so that you can quickly message your members of Congress about this and other important issues. Congressional staff have told AAUW that these messages really matter to them. You can sign up here:**

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>



## **BOOK GROUP Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld**

Our book group meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Reston Used Book Store. Usually, we meet for lunch beforehand at Montmartre in Lake Ann center next to the Reston Used Book Store.

**May, 28** **Lovely One**, by Ketanji Brown Jackson

**June, 25** **The Secret Life of Sunflowers**, by Marta Molnar

**July, 23** **The Elements of Marie Curie**, by Dava Sobel

**August, 27** **The Indigo Girl**, by Natasha Boyd

**September, 24** **The Education Wars**, by Jennifer C. Bershire and Jack Schneider

**October, 22** **Tell Me Everything**, by Elizabeth Stout

**December, 3** **Be Ready When Luck Happens**, by Ina Garten, 317

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## PROGRAMS

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND LUNCH

Join us for an important branch Annual Business Meeting and Lunch

Saturday, June 21 at Noon

Walker Nature Center

Glade Drive, Reston

We will have box lunches from Panara and time to chat and reconnect in this beautiful setting. Details will be in your inbox soon.

### AAUW National Strategic Plan Launch

[Please join us for a special AAUW Strategic Plan Launch Event](#)

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. ET. We're excited to unveil our new strategic plan — highlighting the vision and priorities that will guide AAUW's future.

[Sign up for the webinar here](#)

During the session, you'll:

- Get an inside look at our strategic objectives and key initiatives.
- Learn how branches, states, and members can align with and support the plan.
- Have the opportunity to ask questions and share your perspective.

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Your voice matters, and your engagement will help bring this plan to life. We hope you'll join us as we shape the future of AAUW — together.



## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

Patty Hagan, Chair

### **March April DEI Article**

May is National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. This year's theme is "A Legacy of Leadership and Resilience." This theme is "...both a tribute and a call to action. We honor the achievements of those who have paved the way while igniting the passions of those who will follow. Through this theme, we strive to continue breaking barriers, honor our traditions, and inspire the next generation of AANHPI leaders." [https://fapac.org/AAPI-Resources] Established by Congress in 1977, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation recognizing the month in 1979. There are several museums in DC related to Asian American history including the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, https://apa.si.edu.

May is also Jewish American Heritage Month. There is now evidence that Alexander Hamilton, one of our Founding Fathers, was Jewish. Research done by Dr. Andrew Porwancher looked at Hamilton's origins and determines that he was in all likelihood born and raised Jewish. (<https://www.yu.edu/news/was-alexander-hamilton-jewish>) President George W. Bush first proclaimed this heritage month in 2006. There is excellent information about Jewish history through the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History Museum in Philadelphia: <https://theweitzman.org/>

At press time, no presidential proclamations were available for either of these heritage months.

June is Pride Month, and this year Washington, DC, will be the host of the World Pride, <https://worldpridedc.org>. Numerous activities, concerts and other events are planned. Closer to home, you can celebrate Pride month at Lake Anne Plaza on Sunday, June 1, <https://restonpride.org/pridefest2025>. It's always a fun event so plan to attend!

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## Let's Do Lunch!

Lunch Bunch will resume in July

## WEBSITE RESTON-HERNDON BRANCH

Dianne Mero

Our branch website can be found at <https://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> (or by searching *Reston-Herndon AAUW* using your web browser). This site is a great “back-up” to this newsletter and the weekly branch update (thanks to Roberta and Janine) while also presenting additional information, photos and resources. The website also has a restricted “*Members Only*” section accessed through the “button” on the website Home Page. Click the link, then enter using our branch password code [VA3035]. This section includes members’ individual contacts, email addresses and other branch information. Please review this section and let Janine know if any of your information is incorrect. Thanks for using the website and for your help in keeping everything up to date. Dianne

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## 2024-25 Reston Herndon Area AAUW Board of Director

Administrator	Janine Greenwood
VP Finance	Ruth Ruttenberg
VP Membership	Vacant
VP Program	Vacant
Secretary	Stephanie Abbott
AAUW Funds	Stephanie Abbott
Adopt-a-Spot	Fran Lovaas
Cultural Arts	Carol Flicker, Joyce Senger, Roberta Sherman
Book Group	Alyse Goldman & Carla Heymsfeld
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging	Patty Hagan
Newsletter	Roberta Sherman
Public Policy	Shyamali Hauth
Website	Dianne Mero
Zoom and Updates	Janine Greenwood

**AAUW Diversity Statement:** *In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.*

**Vision:** *Equity for all.*

**Values:** *Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion and Intersectionality*

**Branch Website:** <http://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> VA3035

**AAUW VA Website:** <http://aauw-va.aauw.net> **AAUW Website:** [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org) **Branch**

**Facebook Page:** *Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW*